APPENDIX A

Claims As Amended

1	 (Amended) A method for determining part replacement related 	
2	information by an end user, comprising:	
3	obtaining an associated identifier of a first part [by the end user];	
4	automatically coupling by a scanner interface the identifier of the first part to a	
5	network enabled browser;	
6	automatically connecting by the browser over a network connection to a remote	
7	database to retrieve replacement related information for the first part which identifies	
8	replacement related information for a second part which should be replaced along	
9	with the first part, such database searchable by the associated identifier; and	
10	automatically displaying by the browser for the end user the retrieved	
11	replacement related information for the first part.	
12		
1	2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the identifier of the	
2	first part is a selected one of a UPC identifier, product-identifier mark, and textual	
3	product identifier.	
4		
1	3. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:	
2	obtaining at least one user preference; and	
3	arranging the retrieved replacement related information according to the at least	
4	one user preference.	
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1	4. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 3, wherein the user preference
2	is a selected one of limiting price, limiting distance to travel to obtain a replacement
3	part, limiting shipping time for the replacement part, limiting time to effect part
4	replacement, and only displaying a vendor having the replacement part in stock.
5	
1	5. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 4, further comprising:
2	categorizing the retrieved replacement related information into plural categories;
3	wherein such categories are sorted according to the at least one user preference.
4	
1	6. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 3, further comprising:
2	identifying at least one provider within the retrieved replacement related
3	information having a replacement part in stock; and
4	prominently displaying the at least one provider;
5	wherein prominently displaying includes sorting the retrieved replacement related
6	information so that the at least one provider is at the top of such retrieved
7	information.
8	
1	7. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 1, in which the network
2	connection is a link with the Internet, the method further comprising:
3	providing the associated identifier in a predetermined format, such format being a
4	selected one of a bar-code format, a product-identifier mark, and a verbal identifier;

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wherein a portable bar-code scanner is utilized to obtain the associated identifier.

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1	8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, the method further	
2	comprising:	
3	contacting a cross-reference hub;	
4	searching the cross-reference hub with the associated identifier to obtain at lea	
5	one additional product identifier; and	
6	automatically searching the remote database with the at least one additional	
7	product identifier to retrieve replacement related information for the first part.	
8		
1	9. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 8, wherein the associated	
2	identifier is a non-unique product category reference, and the at least one additional	
3	product identifier is partially unique.	
4		
1	10. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 8, further comprising:	
2	semantically analyzing the retrieved replacement related information; and	
3	reorganizing the retrieved replacement related information according such	
4	analysis.	
5		
1	11. (Unchanged) An article of manufacture, comprising:	
2	a computer readable medium;	
3	wherein encoded on the computer readable medium are instructions capable of	
4	causing a processor to perform the steps of claim 1.	

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1	12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the replacement	
2	related information includes related part data identifying the second part [, where a	
3	related part is one that requires replacement along with the part].	
4		
1	13. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:	
2	determining a geographic location for the first part;	
3	identifying vendors of a replacement part for the first part, each vendor having a	
4	geographic location; and	
5	sorting the vendors according to their geographic proximity to the first part.	
6		
1	14. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:	
2	providing a proximity preference, such preference set to user election if such	
3	election has been made, otherwise to a predetermined value; and	
4	culling the retrieved replacement information according to the proximity	
5	preference.	
6		
1	15. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:	
2	receiving user-specified price terms for a replacement part for the first part;	
3	identifying, from the retrieved replacement information, a sales price offered by	
4	vendors for the replacement part; and	
5	culling the retrieved replacement information according to the user-specified	
6	price terms.	

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1	(Unchanged) An article of manufacture, comprising:		
2	a computer readable medium;		
3	wherein encoded on the computer readable medium are instructions capable of		
4	causing a processor to perform the steps of claim 15.		
5			
1	17. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:		
2	receiving user-specified price terms for a replacement part for the first part;		
3	identifying, from the retrieved replacement information, a sales price offered by		
4	vendors for the replacement part; and		
5	culling the retrieved replacement information according to the user-specified		
6	price terms.		
7			
1	18. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, the method further		
2	comprising:		
3	retrieving from the remote database replacement related concerns, such		
4	concerns including warning and suggestions for a user seeking to replace the first		
5	part;		
6	retrieving from the remote database identification of related parts requiring		
7	replacement along with the <u>first</u> part;		
8	displaying the replacement related concerns to the user; and		
9	notifying the user of the related parts requiring replacement.		
10			

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1	19. (Unchanged) A method according to claim 18, wherein an expert system	
2	interactively displays the replacement related concerns and notification of related	
3	parts requiring replacement.	
4		
1	20. (Amended) A system for determining part replacement related	
2	information by an end user, comprising:	
3	a scanner for scanning an associated identifier of a part;	
4	a network-enabled browsing arrangement; and	
5	a scanner interface facilitating communication between the scanner interface and	
6	the network-enabled browsing arrangement, such communication including	
7	transferring the associated identifier to the browsing arrangement;	
8	wherein the browser automatically connects to a remote database over a networ	
9	to retrieve replacement related information for the first part which identifies	
10	replacement related information for a second part which should be replaced along	
11	with the first part.	
12		
1	21. (Unchanged) A system according to claim 20, further comprising:	
2	a computing device comprising a processor capable of being directed to process	
3	commands stored in a program memory, and an input/output port;	
4	wherein	
5	the scanner is in communication with the input/output port,	
6	the browsing arrangement is provided as a first sequence of program	
7	commands stored in the program memory for execution by the processor, and	

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8	the scanner interface is provided as a second sequence of program		
9	commands stored in the program memory for execution by the processor, where the		
10	scanner interface receives the scanned associated identifier through the input/outp		
11	port and provides such identifier to the browsing arrangement.		
12			
1	22. (Unchanged) A system according to claim 20, wherein the scanner is		
2	incorporated into the computing device.		
3			
1	23. (Amended) A system, comprising:		
2	means for scanning an associated identifier of a first part by the end user;		
3	means for automatically coupling by a scanner interface the scanned identifier of		
4	the <u>first</u> part to a network enabled browser;		
5	means for automatically connecting by the browser over a network connection to		
6	a remote database to retrieve replacement related information for the first part which		
7	identifies replacement related information for a second part which should be		
8	replaced along with the first part, such database searchable by the associated		
9	identifier; and		
10	means for automatically displaying by the browser for the end user the retrieved		
11	replacement related information for the first part.		
12			
1	24. (Unchanged) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:		
2	means for obtaining at least one user preference; and		

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3	means for analoging the retrieved replacement related information according to	
4	the at least one user preference.	
5 1	25. (New) A method for determining part replacement related, comprising:	
2	obtaining an identifier of a first part with a scanner communicatively coupled to	
3	an expert system;	
4	automatically connecting by the expert over a network connection to at least one	
5	remote database to retrieve, based at least on the identifier, replacement related	
6	information for the first part;	
7	receiving candidate results from the at least one remote database; and	
8	processing by the expert system of the candidate results to identify one or mor	
9	replacements for the first part.	
10 1	26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the replacement related	
2	information for the first part includes replacement related information for a second	
3	part suggested to be replaced along with the first part.	
4 1	27. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:	
2	displaying in a web browser a web page identifying the one or more	
3	replacements for the first part.	
4 1	28. (Unchanged) The method of claim 25, further comprising:	
2	obtaining at least one user preference; and	
3	culling by the expert system of retrieved replacement related information	
4	according to the at least one user preference	

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29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the user preference is a selected one of limiting price, limiting distance to travel to obtain a replacement part, limiting shipping time for the replacement part, limiting time to effect part replacement, and only displaying a vendor having the replacement part in stock.

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30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

displaying in a web browser a web page identifying the one or more

replacements for the first part satisfying the at least one user preference.

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